

Environmental Health: Littering

Bridging the gap between people and their environment

Morehouse School Of Medicine Prevention Research Center: Community Health Needs & Assets Assessment Survey

- Conducted a survey in the Atlanta Community to gain the opinions of the neighborhood residents about the health concerns in their community.
- **79 Residents** were interested in Environmental Health education, which **20.2%** seen Litter as a concern in their community .
- Here are a few of their responses:

" Littering is a large part of pollution in my neighborhood. People should understand that it causes health issues as well."

"Recyclable items thrown away. Its a huge concern becoming littering is huge in my neighborhood. They need to hear how important it is not to litter."

"Tires, garbage, people dump in our neighborhood."

What Is Litter?

Littering is the act of improper disposal of trash such as: cans, paper, garbage, rubbish, food, and chemicals in public or unauthorized places.

Litter is costly to clean up, impacts our quality of life and economic development, and eventually ends up in our waterways and oceans.

\$16 MILLION

was spent statewide on removing litter from Georgia roads in 2017.



Storm Water Runoff is rain that flows over ground, pavements, and litter picking up pollutants before flowing into a nearby body of water

Effects of Littering on Environment

- Fire Hazard
- Disease Outbreaks
- Toxins in bodies of Water (Lakes, Oceans, Rivers, Streams, Ponds etc)
- Street Flooding
- Poisoning Wildlife and Animal Food Sources
- Litter harms nature and natural resources



Health Concerns Due To Excessive Littering

Litter contains many germs, and is a perfect breeding ground for bacteria.

- It can lead to Disease Outbreaks
- Be very dangerous causing injuries and harm to humans and animals
- Cause Air Pollution, leading to respiratory diseases
- Lead to an unsafe water system



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Atlanta: 13th Dirtiest City In The United States

In 2018, 40 cities were ranked to determine which metropolitan areas are the dirtiest. Factors influencing ranking, included litter, pests such as mice and cockroaches, population density, particulate matter, air pollution, and nitrogen dioxide air pollution.



Illegal Dumping

1,200

tires are collected by The Department of Public Works every month



- Illegal Scrap Tire Dumping is a major environmental concern that Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission is committed to solving.
- Georgia's Environmental Protection Division states that it costs over \$50,000 To Properly Dispose Used Tires.
- Dumped Tires are a breeding ground for Mosquitoes and can lead to an outbreak in mosquito-borne diseases.
- Atlanta Offers [FREE Tire Disposal](#) at the Semi-Annual Scrap Tire Drive. To report scrap tire dumping, please contact the Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission at 404-330-6240 or KABC@atlantaga.gov

200,000

tires were found dumped in Fulton County in 2018



What Can You Do?

- Organize a neighborhood cleanup with the support of Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission and the Department of Public Works by contacting 404-330-6240 or KABC@atlantaga.gov.
- Always Dispose Of Your Garbage properly
- Separate Your Garbage by Recyclable Items. Not only can you earn an extra income by recycling, but it prevents more natural resources from being used.
- Adopt-A-Spot for litter prevention and beautification
- Report Littering and Illegal Dumping



Citations

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